

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel claims 2 and 23.

B3 1. (currently amended) A scaffold system comprising at least one first support and at least one second support and at least one locking and securing device for removably securing and locking the first support to the second support, the locking and securing device having a means for securing the first support to the second support, the securing means being movably attached to the first support and being movable between a secured position and an unsecured position with respect to the second support by using a force at a substantially coaxial center point of the securing means; the securing means including a securing pin and a handle, the handle being positioned at substantially the center point of the securing pin; and the holding and securing device having a means for locking the securing means to the first support when the securing means is in the secured position in the second support, the locking means being integrally formed with the ~~securing means~~ handle;

the securing means and the locking means being rotatably moveable about a longitudinal axis extending through the securing means, the locking means being in an offset relationship with respect to the securing pin, and the locking means and the securing means being longitudinally moveable along the longitudinal axis thereby allowing the securing means to be moveable between the secured position and the unsecured position and thereby allowing the locking means to be moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position.

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2. cancelled.

3. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the first second support.

4. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~2~~ 3, wherein the handle is integrally formed with the locking means.

5. (original) The scaffold system of claim 4, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means for engagement with the first support when the locking means is in the locked position.

6. (original) The scaffold system of claim 5, wherein the first support is operatively connected to an engagement means for engagement with the engaging means of the locking means.

7. (original) The scaffold system of claim 6, wherein the securing means is positioned at an angle with respect to the engagement means and extends through an opening in the engagement means.

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8. (original) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the securing means further includes at least one biasing means for holding the securing means in the secured position.

9. (original) The scaffold system of claim 8, wherein the securing means further includes a second further biasing means for holding the locking means in the locked position.

10. (original) The scaffold system of claim 9, wherein the first biasing means and the second biasing means are coaxially positioned on the securing means.

11. (original) The scaffold system of claim 10, wherein the first and second biasing means are spaced apart from one another by a rivet pin extending radially through the securing means.

12. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~3~~ 11, wherein the rivet pin is positioned in the securing pin at substantially a midpoint along a longitudinal length of the securing means.

13. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the handle and the securing pin are at an angle with respect to each other and are in the same plane with respect to each other.

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14. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim 13, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means which is ~~in a spaced apart relationship to the handle and~~ is positioned at an angle to the handle, the engaging means and the handle each defining planes that are perpendicular to each other.

15. (previously amended) The scaffold system of claim 14, wherein the second support defines an engagement member for engagement with the locking means when the locking means is in the locked position.

16. (original) The scaffold system of 15, wherein the engagement member is operatively connected to the first support.

17. (original) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the second support includes at least one opening for receiving the securing means when the securing means is in the secured position.

18. (original) The scaffold system of claim 17, wherein the first support includes a channel member for receiving a portion of the second support when the first support is secured to the second support.

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19. (original) The scaffold system of claim 18, wherein the channel member defines at least one opening for receiving a portion of the securing means.

20. (original) The scaffold system of claim 19, further including at least one guide rail socket for receiving one end of a guide rail, the guide rail socket being adjacent and substantially parallel to the channel member.

21. (currently amended) A scaffold system comprising at least one first support and at least one second support and at least one locking and securing device for removably securing and locking the first support to the second support, the locking and securing device having a means for securing the first support to the second support, the securing means being movably attached to the first support and being movable between a secured position and an unsecured position with respect to the second support by using a force at a substantially coaxial center point of the securing means; and a means for locking the securing means to the first support when the securing means is in the secured position in the second support, the locking means being integrally formed with the ~~securing means~~ handle;

the securing means and the locking means being rotatably moveable about a longitudinal axis extending through the securing means, the locking means ~~and~~ being longitudinally moveable along the longitudinal axis thereby allowing the securing means to be moveable between the secured position and the unsecured

position and thereby allowing the locking means to be moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position;

wherein the second support includes at least one opening for receiving the securing means when the securing means is in the secured position;

wherein the first support includes a channel member for receiving a portion of the second support when the first support is secured to the second support;

wherein the channel member defines at least one opening for receiving a portion of the securing means;

further including at least one guide rail socket for receiving one end of a guide rail, the guide rail socket being adjacent and substantially parallel to the channel member; and

wherein the guide rail socket defines first and second openings that are in opposing sides of the guide rail socket for receiving a portion of the securing means.

22. (currently amended) A scaffold system comprising at least one first support and at least one second support and at least one locking and securing device for removably securing and locking the first support to the second support, the locking and securing device comprising a securing mechanism, the securing mechanism including a longitudinally extending securing pin and a moveable handle, the handle being positioned in a spaced apart and substantially coaxial centered

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confd* relationship with respect to the securing pin, the securing mechanism further including a locking member positioned adjacent the moveable handle in a spaced apart relationship to the securing pin; the locking member being in an offset relationship with respect to the securing pin;

the securing pin being moveable between a secured position and an unsecured position and the locking member being moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position.

23. cancelled

24. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the second support.

25. (original) The scaffold system of claim 24, wherein the handle is integrally formed with the locking member.

26. (original) The scaffold system of claim 25, wherein the locking member includes an engaging section for engagement with the first support when the locking means is in the locked position.

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27. (original) The scaffold system of claim 26, wherein the first support is operatively connected to an engagement member for engagement with the engaging section of the locking member.

28. (original) The scaffold system of claim 27, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the engagement member and extends through an opening in the engagement member.

29. (original) The scaffold system of claim 22, wherein the securing mechanism further includes at least one first biasing member coaxially positioned on one end of the securing mechanism.

30. (previously amended) The scaffold system of claim 29, wherein the securing mechanism further includes a second biasing member coaxially positioned on one end of the securing pin in a spaced apart relationship to the first biasing spring member.

31. (original) The scaffold system of claim 30, wherein the first biasing member and the second biasing member are coaxially positioned on the securing pin.



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32. (original) The scaffold system of claim 31, wherein the first and second biasing members are spaced apart from one another by a rivet pin extending radially through the securing pins.

33. (original) The scaffold system of claim 32, wherein the rivet pin is positioned at substantially a midpoint along the longitudinal length of the securing pin.

34. (currently amended) A scaffold system comprising at least one first support and at least one second support and a locking and securing device for removably securing the first support to the second support, the locking and securing device comprising an engagement member and a securing mechanism having a securing pin extending in an axial direction through the engagement member,

the securing pin having a radially extending opening extending therethrough for receiving a rivet pin,

a first biasing member coaxially positioned on the securing pin between the rivet pin and a first end of the securing pin,

a second biasing member coaxially positioned on the securing pin between the rivet pin and a second end of the securing pin,

a handle operatively connected to the second end of the securing pin and in a substantially coaxial centered relationship with respect to the securing pin, and,

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a locking member in an offset relationship with respect to the securing pin integrally formed with the handle.


35. (original) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the engagement means.

36. (original) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the locking member includes an engaging section having a distal end for engagement with the engagement member when the locking member is in a locked position.

37. (original) The scaffold system of claim 36, wherein the engagement member is positioned at an angle with respect to the securing pin.

38. (original) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the rivet pin is positioned in the securing pin at substantially a midpoint along a longitudinal length of the securing pin.

39. (original) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the handle and the securing pin are at an angle with respect to each other and are in the same plane with respect to each other.

 40. (original) The scaffold system of claim 39, wherein the locking member includes an engaging section having a distal end which is in a spaced apart relationship to the handle and is positioned at an angle to the handle, the distal end and the handle each defining planes that are perpendicular to each other.

41. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the handle is in a plane extending through a line defined by a Y axis and the securing pin is in a plane extending through a line defined by an X axis, the securing pin and handle being in the same plane as defined by the X and Y axes; the securing pin also being in a spaced apart and parallel relationship with an extending section of the locking member which is also in a plane defined by the X axis.

42. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 41, further including an engaging means in a spaced apart relationship to the handle, the engaging means being in a plane extending through a line defined by a Z axis in a direction away from the X axis, wherein the Z axis is perpendicular to both the X and Y axes such that a distal end extends from the engaging means in a direction toward the handle whereby the distal end is in a second plane extending through a line defined by a second Y axis.

43. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 22, wherein the handle is in a plane extending through a line defined by a Y axis and the securing

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pin is in a plane extending through a line defined by an X axis, the securing pin and handle being in the same plane as defined by the X and Y axes; the securing pin also being in a spaced apart and parallel relationship with an extending section of the locking member which is also in a plane defined by the X axis.

44. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 43, further including an engaging means in a spaced apart relationship to the handle, the engaging means being in a plane extending through a line defined by a Z axis in a direction away from the X axis, wherein the Z axis is perpendicular to both the X and Y axes such that a distal end extends from the engaging means in a direction toward the handle whereby the distal end is in a second plane extending through a line defined by a second Y axis.

45. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the handle is in a plane extending through a line defined by a Y axis and the securing pin is in a plane extending through a line defined by an X axis, the securing pin and handle being in the same plane as defined by the X and Y axes; the securing pin also being in a spaced apart and parallel relationship with an extending section of the locking member which is also in a plane defined by the X axis.

46. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 45, further including an engaging means in a spaced apart relationship to the handle, the engaging

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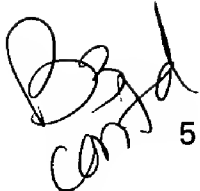
means being in plane extending through a line defined by a Z axis in a direction away from the X axis, wherein the Z axis is perpendicular to both the X and Y axes such that a distal end extends from the engaging means in a direction toward the handle whereby the distal end is in a second plane extending through a line defined by a second Y axis.

47. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means includes a securing pin and a handle positioned in a spaced apart relationship to and at substantially the center point of the securing pin.

48. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the securing pin is positioned at an angle with respect to the first support.

49. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the handle is integrally formed with the locking means.

50. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means for engagement with the first support when the locking means is in the locked position.




51. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 50, wherein the first support is operatively connected to an engagement means for engagement with the engaging means of the locking means.

52. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 51, wherein the securing means is positioned at an angle with respect to the engagement means and extends through an opening in the engagement means.

53. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein the securing means further includes at least one biasing means for holding the securing means in the secured position.

54. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 53, wherein the securing means further includes a second biasing means for holding the locking means in the locked position.

55. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 54, wherein the first biasing means and the second biasing means are coaxially positioned on the securing means.


 56. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 55, wherein the first and second biasing means are spaced apart from one another by a rivet pin extending radially through the securing means.

57. (currently amended) The scaffold system of claim 48, wherein the rivet securing pin is positioned in the securing pin at substantially a midpoint along a longitudinal length of the securing means.

58. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 47, wherein the handle and the securing pin are at an angle with respect to each other and are in the same plane with respect to each other.

59. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 58, wherein the locking means includes an engaging means which is in a spaced apart relationship to the handle and is positioned at an angle to the handle, the engaging means and the handle each defining planes that are perpendicular to each other.

60. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 59, wherein the second support defines an engagement member for engagement with the locking means when the locking means is in the locked position.



61. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 60, wherein the engagement member is operatively connected to the first support.

62. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the securing means has no threaded portion.

63. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the locking means has no threaded portion.

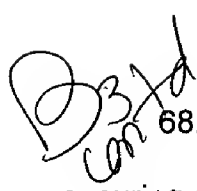
64. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the securing and the locking means are secured by being rotated about one half turn.

65. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 1, wherein the securing means and the locking means are secured by being rotated about 160° to about 180°.

66. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means has no threaded portion.

67. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the locking means has no threaded portion.



 68. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing and the locking means are secured by being rotated about one half turn.

69. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 21, wherein the securing means and the locking means are secured by being rotated about 160° to about 180°.

70. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 22, wherein the securing mechanism has no threaded portion.

71. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 22, wherein the securing mechanism is secured by being rotated about one half turn.

72. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 22, wherein the securing mechanism is secured by being rotated about 160° to about 180°.

73. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the securing mechanism has no threaded portion.

74. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the securing mechanism is secured by being rotated about one half turn.

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75. (previously added) The scaffold system of claim 34, wherein the securing mechanism is secured by being rotated about 160° to about 180°.

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